Expected knowledge about green principles and applications of sustainability in building design has become the rule rather than the exception, as conventional architecture is constantly being reframed by challenges of green building practices. More than a buzzword, sustainability is now a concrete [re]examination of the way green practices are engaged in the pursuit of our well-being, and a characterization of who we are as humans, being constantly challenged by ethical choices.

The MOTIVATIONS that have shaped the content of this course are threefold: 1) the social outreach, which constitutes one of the core values of FJSOA, has led to the choice of the Free Health Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas, as the project to be studied in this class, 2) the green design of FHC constitutes the selected building that students will document as well as submit of the FHC LEED certification, and 3) the economic options in meeting the sustainability standards will be examined.

As opposed to previous offerings, this course will be shifted from the theoretical realm to offer unique opportunities for students to apply the LEED Model to a real case situation, i.e., the FHC.

**Course Objectives:**
Upon course completion, students learn how to:
1. Implement LEED rating system for both the Design and Construction stages of the building
2. Connect knowledge of sustainability theory to design and construction practices

**Method**
Throughout the course, students are exposed to the use of the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Environmental and Energy efficient Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. By understanding this rating system and what goes into achieving each point, they become more marketable in the work force and gain the knowledge to produce responsible architecture in relation to sustainability. The material presented, here, is useful in becoming LEED accredited professional, but accreditation is not granted in this course. You will, however, earn the required practice on a real building prior to passing the 2 exams to become LEED Accredited Professional.

First, students research, document and present the information necessary to achieve the targeted credits. They will also be responsible to digitally enter the information for each credit into the USGBC website. In parallel, they will be asked to lead a discussion on one of the five components of LEED credit system. In addition, they are challenged to engage the discussion about attaining the highest level of LEED certification. Finally, guest speakers that include individuals involved with the design and construction process will be invited to provide additional input to the class or help with the specifics of a given credit. The architect, engineers, LEED consultants, USGBC representatives, contractors and sub-contractors will be among the invited individuals.

The results of this work will result into the submission of all documentation pertinent to the acquisition of some level of LEED Certification.

Honors students will additionally pursue an in-depth study of a specific topic that is of relevance to this building. The class will meet M-F from 11:00 am-12:30 pm and M-W-F from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Room 201 of Vol Walker Hall.